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REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

July 1, 2015

Via Hand Delivery and ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
ETC Annual Report of Pine Belt Telephone Company, Inc.
Study Area Code: 250315

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Pine Belt Telephone Company, Inc. (“Pine Belt Telephone”) and pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission’s rules,¹ we are submitting the confidential and redacted versions of FCC Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form. Pine Belt Telephone seeks confidential treatment under the Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.² The redacted version is also being filed on this date via the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert A. Silverman

By:

Robert A. Silverman
Bennet & Bennet, PLLC
6124 MacArthur Boulevard
Bethesda, MD 20816

Attachments

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422

² *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Protective Order, DA 15-712 (rel. June 17, 2015) (“Protective Order”).

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting
Data Collection Form**
REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	250315
<015> Study Area Name	PINE BELT TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Donna Counselman
<035> Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	cores@pinebelt.net

ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS		54.313 Completion Required	54.422 Completion Required
(check box when complete)			
<100> Service Quality Improvement Reporting	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<200> Outage Reporting (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<210> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <-- check box if no outages to report		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<300> Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice)	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<310> Detail on Attempts (voice)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> (attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<320> Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband)	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<330> Detail on Attempts (broadband)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> (attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<400> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)			
<410> Fixed	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<420> Mobile	0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<430> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<440> Fixed	0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<450> Mobile	0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<500> Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<510> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">250315a1510.pdf</div>	(attached descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<600> Functionality in Emergency Situations	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<610> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">250315a1610.pdf</div>	(attached descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<700> Company Price Offerings (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<710> Company Price Offerings (broadband)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<800> Operating Companies and Affiliates	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<900> Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)? <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>	(if yes, complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<1000> Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<1010> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">250315a11010.pdf</div>	(attach descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Yes or No) <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	(if not, check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<1110>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<1200> Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers	(complete attached worksheet)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Price Cap Carriers, Proceed to Price Cap Additional Documentation Worksheet

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

<2000>	(check to indicate certification)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<2005>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet

<3000>	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<3005>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

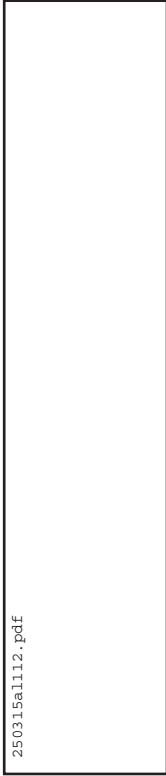
(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250315
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cores@pinebelt.net
<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC? If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing "5 year plan" filed with the FCC?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (yes / <input type="radio"/> no) <input checked="" type="radio"/> (yes / <input type="radio"/> no)

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, then you are required to file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.



Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

<113>	Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets	Yes
<114>	Report how much universal service (USF) support was received	Yes
<115>	How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality	Yes
<116>	How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage	Yes
<117>	How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity	Yes
<118>	Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.	Yes

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
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1/1/2015
17.62

	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge
<701>		
<702>		

[illegible]

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

25031520163343854025 ext.

cores@pinebelt.net

-- See attached worksheet --

(900) Tribal Lands Reporting
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250315
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cores@pinebelt.net

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250315
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cores@pinebelt.net

<1120> Please confirm whether terrestrial backhaul options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g) (Yes, No).

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers		FCC Form 481
Lifeline		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
Data Collection Form		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250315
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cores@pinebelt.net

<1210>	Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of Attached Document</p>
<1220>	Link to Public Website	HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

<1221>	Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1222>	Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1223>	Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
<i>Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers</i>		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250315
<015>	Study Area Name	FINE BELT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	334555025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cores@plinedell.net

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental Connect America Phase I support, frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

- <2010> 2nd Year Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)i}
- <2011a> 3rd Year Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii}
- <2011b> Attachment {47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii}

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification {47 CFR § 54.312(a)}

- <2012> 2013 Frozen Support Calculation {47 CFR § 54.313(c)(1)}
- <2013> 2014 Frozen Support Calculation {47 CFR § 54.313(c)(2)}
- <2014> 2015 Frozen Support Calculation {47 CFR § 54.313(c)(3)}
- <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Calculation {47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)}

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}

Certification Support Used to Build Broadband

Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}

- <2017> 3rd year Broadband Service Certification
- <2018> 5th year Broadband Service Certification
- <2019> Interim Progress Certification

Please check the box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 2021, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (e)(3)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

<2021> Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

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FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

(3000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form

<010>	Study Area Code	250315
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cores@pinebelt.net

CHECK the boxes below to note compliance on its five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3010)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Milestone Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii))	<div>250315a3010.pdf</div>	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
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(3011)	Please check this box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3012 contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (f)(1)(ii), the carrier shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	<div></div>
--------	--	-------------

(3012)	Community Anchor Institutions (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(iii))	<div></div>	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
--------	--	-------------	--

(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2))	<div><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</div>	(Yes/No)
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	<div><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</div>	(Yes/No)

Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:

(3015)	Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div>
--------	---	--

(3016)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div>
--------	---	--

(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	<div>250315a13017.pdf</div>	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
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(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, Is your company audited?	<div><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</div>	(Yes/No)
--------	--	---	----------

If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains

(3019)	Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
--------	---	-------------------------------------

(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
--------	---	-------------------------------------

(3021)	Management letter and audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
--------	--	-------------------------------------

If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

(3022)	Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers,	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
--------	---	-------------------------------------

(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
--------	--	-------------------------------------

(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
--------	---	-------------------------------------

(3025)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
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(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	<div></div>	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
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Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010>	Study Area Code	250315
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cores@pinebelt.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier: PINE BELT TEL CO	
Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date 06/25/2015
Printed name of Authorized Officer: JOHN NETTLES	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: PRESIDENT	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 3343855001 ext.	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 250315	Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	250315
<015> Study Area Name	PINE BELT TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cores@pinebelt.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) _____ is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date:
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Date:
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Attachments

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

[illegible]

Redacted – For Public Inspection

Pine Belt Telephone Company, Inc.

<700> Price Offerings Including Voice Rate Data

Redacted – For Public Inspection

Pine Belt Telephone Company, Inc.

<710> Broadband Price Offerings

Redacted – For Public Inspection

Pine Belt Telephone Company, Inc.

**54.313 Compliance Report
Five-Year Plan Update**

Redacted – For Public Inspection

Pine Belt Telephone Company, Inc.

Operating Report for

Telecommunications Borrowers

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Pine Belt Telephone Co., Inc. (SAC – 250315)
Demonstration of Complying with Applicable Service Quality Standards
and Consumer Protection Rules

Pine Belt Telephone Co., Inc. (“Company”) hereby certifies that it is complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. The Company is subject to consumer protection obligations under the Alabama Public Service Commission T-Rules, CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers’ privacy.

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**Pine Belt Telephone Co., Inc. (SAC – 250315)
Demonstration of Ability to Function in Emergency Situations**

Pine Belt Telephone Co., Inc. (“Company”) hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Part 54, Subpart C, §54.202(a)(2)¹ and Rule T-21 Section L of the Alabama Public Service Commission. The Company’s network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2). The Company can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations can also be used to allow the Company to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require.

Pine Belt Telephone Co., Inc. maintains a written plan to meet service emergencies resulting from failures of power service, sudden and prolonged increase in traffic, fire, storm, or acts of God, and has trained employees on emergency procedure. All central offices and remotes are supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable them to keep running for at least the minimum of four (4) hours, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. The Business Office is also equipped with generator back-up.

Local service is protected by fiber ring technology which consists of six fiber rings linking 50 remote serving areas to toll service out to the world. The connection to the toll network consists of a self-healing OC-3 fiber-microwave ring with redundancy which re-routes toll traffic in the event of a fiber cut or equipment failure.

¹ Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to “demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.”

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Pine Belt Telephone Co., Inc. (SAC – 250315)
Demonstration of Complying with Voice Services Comparability

Pine Belt Telephone Co., Inc. (“Company”) hereby certifies that its fixed voice service is no more than two standard deviations above the national average urban rate for voice service, as published annually by the Wireline Competition Bureau, as required in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(10). The Company has a fixed voice service rate of \$17.62 which is far less than the national average monthly rate of \$21.22

LIFELINE ASSISTANCE

What Is Lifeline Assistance?

- Lifeline Assistance is a government assistance program that provides a monthly credit to the local telephone service bill of residential customers. Lifeline Assistance is designed to make basic home telephone service even more affordable for qualified customers.
- If you qualify for Lifeline Assistance, Pine Belt Telephone Company will discount your local telephone charge by \$9.25 each month.

What Restrictions Apply to the Lifeline Program?

- Lifeline customers may subscribe to any local telephone service plans offered by Pine Belt Telephone Company, but the discount may only be applied to local telephone charges.
- **Lifeline Assistance is a federal benefit – willfully making false statements in order to receive government assistance can result in a fine or imprisonment or cause the subscriber to be de-enrolled or barred from the program.**
- Lifeline Assistance is only available for one telephone or wireless (cellular) line per household, which is used as the primary residential line.
- For purposes of the Lifeline program, a “household” is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share in the household’s income and expenses. A household may include related and unrelated persons.
- The household may not receive Lifeline benefits from more than one service provider – that is, if someone in the household receives a Lifeline discount on wireless (cellular) service, the household would not also qualify to receive a discount on home phone service.
- Violation of this “one-per-household” rule is a violation of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) and will result in the subscriber’s de-enrollment from the Lifeline Assistance program and possible prosecution by the United States Government.
- Lifeline Assistance is also a non-transferable benefit – it is a violation of federal law to rent, sell or give away your Lifeline service to any other individual.

How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Assistance?

Lifeline Assistance is available to residential telephone customers who have an annual household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of its size **OR** who participate in any of the following low-income assistance programs:

- ❖ Medicaid
- ❖ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or Food Stamps)
- ❖ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ❖ Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- ❖ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- ❖ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- ❖ National School Lunch Program’s Free Lunch Program (NSLP)

You may also be eligible for Lifeline Assistance even if you do not personally participate in one of these programs, as long as an individual who lives in your household, and for whom you are financially responsible, participates in at least one of these programs.

What Proof of Eligibility Do I Need to Provide?

Qualifying Based on Annual Household Income

If you want to qualify for Lifeline Assistance based on your annual household income, your household income must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of that size.

Annual Income 135% Thresholds Based on Household Size								
1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people	7 people	8 people	For each additional person
\$15,890	\$21,506	\$27,122	\$32,738	\$38,354	\$43,970	\$49,586	\$55,502	\$5,616 per person

You must provide proof of your household income at the time that you apply for Lifeline Assistance through one or more of the following:

- Most recent state or federal tax return
- Retirement/pension statement of benefits
- Current income statement from an employer
- Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation Statement of Benefits
- Paycheck stubs for most recent 3 months
- Federal notice letter of participation in General Assistance
- Social Security Statement of Benefits
- Veterans Administration Statement of Benefits
- Child Support document
- Divorce decree
- Other official document containing income information for at least 3 months time

Qualifying Based on Participation in Low-Income Assistance Programs

If you want to qualify for Lifeline Assistance based on participation in one of the low-income assistance programs, you must provide proof of participation at the time that you apply for Lifeline Assistance with one or more of the following:

- Current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying state or federal program
- A notice letter of participation in a qualifying state or federal program
- Program participation documents, such as a copy of your SNAP card, Medicaid card, etc.
- Other official document evidencing the qualifying person's participation in one of the listed state or federal low-income assistance programs

Pine Belt Telephone Company will NOT keep a copy of any of the supporting documentation you provide.

Frequently Asked Lifeline Questions

Q. Can Pine Belt accept a copy of my paycheck as proof of my income eligibility for Lifeline Assistance?

A. The FCC rules require copies of your paycheck stubs for 3 consecutive months as proof of your income-based eligibility for Lifeline Assistance. A copy of your paycheck is not acceptable.

Q. If I babysit or am self-employed, what is acceptable proof of my income?

A. You may provide a copy of your most recent income tax return as proof of your income.

Q. How can I get a copy of my Social Security Statement of Benefits, as acceptable proof of my income?

A. The Social Security Statement of Benefits is mailed to all recipients annually. You may obtain another copy from your local Social Security office. You should be aware that Supplemental Social Security (“SSI”) is not the same as Social Security – SSI is a federal income supplement program for blind and disabled people with little or no income and is not funded by Social Security taxes.

Q. Can I qualify for Lifeline Assistance based on my age?

A. Lifeline Assistance is not awarded based on age. To qualify, you must meet the income guidelines or participate in one of the qualifying low-income assistance programs.

Q. Do I qualify for Lifeline Assistance if I receive Medicare?

A. No. Medicare is not one of the qualifying programs for Lifeline Assistance.

Q. I have recently moved to the area and need telephone service, but I only have a temporary address. Can I apply for Lifeline Assistance?

A. You must provide a permanent residential address and a billing address, if different from the residential address, before you can receive Lifeline Assistance. If you do not have a permanent address (e.g., an address not recognized by the Post Office or a temporary living situation), you must provide a temporary residential service address or other address identifying information. Pine Belt Telephone Company is required to verify your temporary address every 90 days, until you obtain a permanent address. If you do not respond to Pine Belt’s address verification attempts within 30 days, you may be de-enrolled from Lifeline service.

Q. Can I use a Post Office Box for my address?

A. Pine Belt can accept a P.O. Box or General Delivery address as your billing address, but not as a residential address.

Q. What must I do if my address changes?

A. If you move to a new address, you must provide your new address to Pine Belt Telephone Company within 30 days after relocating.

Q. Am I required to notify you of any changes in my income or participation in one of the low-income assistance programs?

A. You must notify Pine Belt Telephone Company within 30 days if you or the qualifying person in your household no longer participates in the government assistance

program(s) that qualify you for Lifeline Assistance; if your qualifying annual household income exceeds 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines; or if you no longer qualify to receive Lifeline Assistance for any other reason. You will then stop receiving Lifeline benefits.

Q. Do I need to provide a deposit when I apply for Lifeline Assistance?

A. Customers who do not subscribe to Toll Limitation Service at the time of signing up for Lifeline Assistance may be required to provide a service deposit, consistent with the terms of Pine Belt Telephone Company's General Subscriber Services Tariff. Pine Belt offers free Toll Limitation Service to Lifeline customers for any local service plan that charges a fee for toll calls that is in addition to the monthly price of your Lifeline service.

Q. When will the Lifeline discount be included on my telephone bill?

A. The discount will be applied to your account within two billing cycles and will be retroactive back to your approval date.

Q. Why isn't the Lifeline discount still appearing on my bill?

A. The FCC now requires Pine Belt Telephone Company to verify its Lifeline customers' continuing eligibility for Lifeline Assistance every year. If you did not complete and return the Lifeline Rate Assistance Verification form sent to you by Pine Belt within 30 days, as required, your Lifeline Assistance was terminated. You must re-apply for Lifeline Assistance in order to receive the discount.

Q. Who can I call if I have questions about Lifeline Assistance?

A. You may call Pine Belt's customer service representatives at 334-385-2106, or toll-free at 1-888-810-4638, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may also contact the Alabama Public Service Commission at 1-800-882-3919 or visit the following websites: www.psc.state.al.us or www.usac.org.

Q. Are there any additional requirements for receiving Lifeline Assistance?

A. All of the terms and conditions for receiving service from Pine Belt Telephone Company, as set forth in Pine Belt's General Subscriber Services Tariff and/or Price List, are applicable to services received under Lifeline Assistance. You may view Pine Belt's Tariff and Price List on this website at <http://www.pinebelt.net/regcompliance>.

Q. I am interested in applying for wireless (cellular) Lifeline service. Do any special rules apply?

A. You must meet the same qualifications to receive wireless services under Lifeline Assistance as for wireline service, and the same service rules apply to all persons receiving Lifeline Assistance. In addition, for Lifeline customers receiving wireless prepaid services, your Lifeline discount may be removed if you do not use the service for 60 consecutive days. Additional terms and limitations of service for wireless Lifeline service may be found at our website under "lifeline".

How Do I Apply for Lifeline Assistance?

- You may apply in person for Lifeline Assistance at Pine Belt Telephone Company's business office, located at 3984 County Road 32 in Arlington, Alabama, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Applications for Lifeline Assistance for wireless (cellular) service are also

accepted at our wireless retail relocations, which may be found at <http://www.pinebelt.net/retail-stores>.

- You must complete the Lifeline application form and bring proof of your eligibility for Lifeline Assistance based on either your household income or participation in one of the qualifying low-income assistance programs.
- If you have questions about Lifeline Assistance, you may call Pine Belt's customer service representatives at 334-385-2106, or toll-free at 1-888-810-4638, during normal business hours.

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**Pine Belt Telephone Co., Inc. (SAC – 250315)
Milestone Certification**

Pine Belt Telephone Co., Inc. (“Company”) hereby certifies it has taken reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to reasonably comparable offerings in urban areas, and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time as required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(1)(i). As a carrier receiving support Company files a progress report on its five-year service quality plan filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a).